

Baha'i Centre, 158A, Old Brompton Road, S.W.5.

QAWL, MASA'IL, 104

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"This is the time for man to strive and put forth his greatest efforts in spiritual directions." (Abdu'l-Bahá)

Beloved Friends,

As our London Community is privileged to send out pioneers from time to time, to serve the Six-Year Plan, those who still form the mother community have to draw closer together.

By taking counsel together we have to find the best ways of conserving our powers of action, and applying them at the right time and place in order to obtain the maximum result. We have seen this method and the results obtained in the field of the Six-Year Plan.

Here in London we can similarly achieve more by concentrating our combined efforts on a few really good public meetings in outside halls, at longer intervals. To hold such meetings every month, but be only half-prepared for them, is obviously a waste of effort. Bearing this principle in mind, we have cut down the number of these meetings for 1948. Those that will be held are scheduled for the following festivals and anniversaries: Nawruz, the 12th day of Ridván; the anniversary of Abdu'l-Bahá's talk at the City Temple; the birthdays of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh.

This gives us a chance to prepare something worthwhile, to make it known to our friends and enquirers that they are being invited to share joyous feast days of momentous and historic importance, with us. To make it known is important for everyone: not just to rely upon a contacts list, but to enlarge constantly the circle of contacts. Many are the people today, who are searching for what we have to give to them.

And lest some of the Friends feel disappointed at the scarcity of these large meetings in outside halls, do not forget that we have a meeting at the Centre every Wednesday which needs your support. You can bring your friends to it, to learn and study much more than is possible at a large gathering.

London may not be in the news as a goal town, but the newer Communities expect London to achieve fine things, by virtue of its experience and position as the Capital-City. Our pioneers like to read of the deeds of their Mother Community and feel proud of her, as she is of them.

With loving greetings,
In His Fellowship,
The London Spiritual Assembly.

Treasurer's Report: Contributions have increased, but we are still drawing upon last year's balance, and living dangerously on the margin. Greater audacity and sacrifice is needed.

Our Pioneers: In the last Bulletin we had the news of George Mabbutt's departure for Bristol. And here is the first letter from him. It needs no comment. All we can say is "Thank you, George".

Dear Baha'i Friends, It is with much pleasure that I write to tell you my family and I are at last settled in Bristol. It seemed strange at first sharing someone else's house. Robert and his wife have been great, and thanks to application of Baha'i principles most of the main snags have been ironed out. Housing is a far greater problem than I realized, though I do not doubt we will find a place one day with His help. Both myself and family have been taken care of for a long time now. Even the question of work was solved, at one time when I was seeking

it, I prayed for guidance. The outlook seemed pretty hopeless, with next to no help from the exchange, but things worked out, Robert and I got into an iron foundry - 44 hr week, no work Saturday. It was hard but possible, though at first I doubted my strength.

I wonder now why I worried about it. Life must have been many times worse in prisons. That thought comforted me no end.

Now that I've broken from the old stick-in-mud life, the new holds so much. Why! Its grand getting the bit between the teeth knowing the road a-head is the right road and no turning back nor desire to do so. I am sorry for those who cannot pioneer, sorry because they miss that sense of depending so much on Bahá'u'lláh and the strong fellowship of Bahá'is; one realizes so much what other Bahá'is, so more worthy of the name than I, must have felt in those dark days.

To those who may be on the balance I say, Take the chance, you should not miss a moment of the pleasure it brings, or getting over or round the problems. You will be taken care of. For my part, I had little to leave or lose. The dear faces, and the Centre, God bless them; those lovely feasts which gave such a sense of pleasure; firesides at 95 The Avenue - Yes, but little else. Here life holds a greater purpose. That of spreading the good news with a fine crowd of Bahá'is small in number but keen. Well, now, I wish you all His blessings and send Bahá'i Greeting. In the Bahá'i Fellowship, George Mabbutt.

OUR COMMUNITY: It is with greatest joy that we welcome Miss Beryl de Gruchy as a new member of our Community. Beryl de Gruchy declared her faith in October and her first experience of a 19-Day Feast was on November 4th.

At the same Feast of Qudrat we were very happy to welcome Mr. Darius Khorsand who has come to study in London. Darius Khorsand, who is originally from Tehran, came from Paris. Once again we give these friends the warmest loving welcome.

NINETEEN-DAY FEASTS: Feast of Masá'il (Questions): Friday, December 12th 7 p.m.
Hostess: Mrs. Backwell.

The Feast of Sharaf (Honour): Wednesday, December 31st 7 p.m. Hostess Mrs. Basil Hall
Wednesday Meetings at the Centre 7.30 p.m. December 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th.
These Meetings NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

NEWS AND REVIEWS

1. Mr. Nazar: We are exceedingly happy to report that our dear friend Asher Nazar who as you know was taken very seriously ill in Nottingham, is now back convalescing at his home in London. His recovery was miraculous. Our love goes to him.
2. Sunday Afternoons at the Centre: If you have any friends whom you wish to bring to the Centre on a Sunday afternoon, a small meeting can be arranged if Mrs. Slade is informed a few days before.
3. Dr. Javid: Dr. Javid who was in London for a year, left for Abadan, Persia, on November 11th. Dr. Javid was a member of our Community from 1930 to 1940. We are looking forward to seeing him again.
4. The Centre Committee: The new Centre Committee has met. One of its members will always be in charge at a Feast of Anniversary at the Centre. A rota list will be put on the notice board. The Committee asks for contributions of tea and sugar to the Centre Coffers.
5. Vivian Isenthal invites you to come to the 19-Day Feast of Masá'il (December 12th) fifteen minutes earlier to attend a memorial meeting which she wishes to hold for her "spiritual mother" - the relative who introduced her to the Faith, and who fell a victim in Germany to the persecutions of the war.